



FEMA

Bringing Shutters to Those In Need

Miami-Dade County, FL - Frank Reddish, the Emergency Management Coordinator for Miami-Dade County, asserts that installing storm shutters is key way to protect a home or business from storm damage.

Mr. Reddish spearheads the County's Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Group and has been involved in many successful projects designed to reduce damage from future storms.

For low-income homeowners, the Miami-Dade LMS is making shutters available to qualified applicants at no cost through the In-Need Shuttering Program. This program evolved from the original project as Mr. Reddish and the LMS sought to widen the program's scope and coverage throughout the community.

Community residents can obtain applications for shutters at several locations throughout the county. According to Mr. Reddish, the program has received more than 100,000 applications, and provided shutters for 1,500 homes as of summer 2006.

Currently, Miami-Dade's Community Action Agency Weatherization Program is responsible for the shuttering. The shutters, hardware, and equipment are purchased through local suppliers at reduced rates, with the cost of shuttering a single house totaling between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Taking into consideration the potential savings in home repair, reduced property losses, and reduced human suffering, the advantages of protecting a house through the relatively simple technique of storm shutters are clear.

Originally, funding for the In-Need Shuttering Program came from the State of Florida's Residential Construction Mitigation Program in the form of a \$300,000 grant. An additional \$1 million allocation came from the Miami-Dade County Commission. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, administered by Florida's Department of Community Affairs, provided \$900,000 in program development funds following tornado events in 2003, and this amount was matched by the County.

"The 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons were the worst in Florida's history," Mr. Reddish said. "We went out and looked to see how the shuttered houses fared and we found zero damage, not just the houses that we shuttered with this program but any house with shutters suffered no significant damage. Shuttering works, and this is a great program, because we're bringing shutters to those who can't afford them on their own."



**Miami-Dade County,
Florida**



Quick Facts

Year:

2003

Sector:

Private

Cost:

\$2,000.00 (Estimated)

Primary Activity/Project:

Education/Outreach/Public Awareness

Primary Funding:

**Hazard Mitigation Technical Assistance
Program (HMTAP)**